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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method in a data processing system for managing a
2 request including a session identification, comprising:
3 calculating a first value based on the session
4 identification; and

5 routing the request to a server based on the first
6 value.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of
2 calculating a first value comprises performing a hash
3 function on the session identification.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of routing
2 the request to a server comprises:
3 performing a modulus function on the first value to
4 form a first integer; and
5 selecting a server based on the first integer.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of selecting
2 a server comprises looking up the server in a look-up
3 table using the first integer.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of routing
2 the request to a server comprises:
3 selecting a first server based on the first value;
4 determining whether the first server is functional;
5 and

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6 routing the request to the first server in response
7 to the first server being functional.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 calculating a second value based on the first value
3 in response to the first server being non-functional; and
4 routing the request to a second server based on the
5 second value.

1 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of determining
2 whether the first server is functional comprises using a
3 look-up table.

1 8. A method in a data processing system for routing a
2 request to one of a number of servers, comprising:
3 receiving a request including a session
4 identification;
5 performing a hash function on the session
6 identification to form a hash value;
7 performing a modulus function on the hash value to
8 form an integer; and
9 routing the request to one of the number of servers
10 based on the integer.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the integer is between
2 zero and the number of servers minus one.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of routing
2 the request comprises looking up the server in a look-up
3 table using the integer.

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1 11. An apparatus for managing a request including a
2 session identification, comprising:

3 calculation means for calculating a first value
4 based on the session identification; and

5 routing means for routing the request to a server
6 based on the first value.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the calculation
2 means comprises hash means for performing a hash function
3 on the session identification.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the routing means
2 comprises:

3 modulus means for performing a modulus function on
4 the first value to form a first integer; and

5 selection means for selecting a server based on the
6 first integer.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the selection
2 means comprises table means for looking up the server in
3 a look-up table using the first integer.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the routing means
2 comprises:

3 selection means for selecting a first server based
4 on the first value;

5 determining means for determining whether the first
6 server is functional; and

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7 means for routing the request to the first server in
8 response to the first server being functional.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:
2 means for calculating a second value based on the
3 first value in response to the first server being non-
4 functional; and
5 means for routing the request to a second server
6 based on the second value.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the determining
2 means uses a look-up table.

1 18. An apparatus for routing a request to one of a
2 number of servers, comprising:
3 a processor; and
4 a memory electrically connected to the processor,
5 the memory having stored therein a program to be executed
6 on the processor for performing:
7 receiving a request including a session
8 identification;
9 performing a hash function on the session
10 identification to form a hash value;
11 performing a modulus function on the hash value
12 to form an integer; and
13 routing the request to one of the number of
14 servers based on the integer.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the integer is
2 between zero and the number of servers minus one.

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1 20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the step of
2 routing the request comprises looking up the server in a
3 look-up table using the integer.

1 21. A distributed processing system comprising:
2 a client computer;
3 a first application server;
4 a second application server;
5 a web server, connected to the client computer, the
6 first application server, and the second application
7 server, the web server for routing a request from the
8 client computer to one of the first application server
9 and the second application server; and
10 a database, connected to the first application
11 server and the second application server, for storing
12 session data associated with the request.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the web server
2 routes the request to the first application server and
3 the first application server establishes a session with
4 the client computer and generates a session
5 identification.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the first
2 application server stores the session data in the
3 database.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the web server
2 receives a second request including the session

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3 identification, performs a calculation on the session
4 identification to form a value and routes the request to
5 the second application server based on the value.

1 25. A computer program product, in a computer readable
2 medium, for managing a request including a session
3 identification, comprising:

4 instructions for calculating a first value based on
5 the session identification; and

6 instructions for routing the request to a server
7 based on the first value.

1 26. A computer program product, in a computer readable
2 medium, for routing a request to one of a number of
3 servers, comprising:

4 instructions for receiving a request including a
5 session identification;

6 instructions for performing a hash function on the
7 session identification to form a hash value;

8 instructions for performing a modulus function on
9 the hash value to form an integer; and

10 instructions for routing the request to one of the
11 number of servers based on the integer.

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